Revision of coal prices

1857. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the coal prices revised during the two years ;

(b) the reasons for revising the coal prices ;

(c) the increase in the cost of production of coal since last revision of coal prices ; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the prices of coal to cover the rise in cost of production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) During the last two years i.e. 1992 and 1993 the prices of coal were revised twice—first time in February, 1993 in order to offset the increase in the cost of various inputs in the production of coal and second time in June, 1993 to compensate the coal companies for increase in Variable Dearness Allowance paid to employees retrospectively from 01-01-1989.

(c) The average cost of production of coal for Coal India Ltd. for 1992-93 was Rs. 334.31 per tonne (actual). The budgeted cost for 1993-94 has been estimated at Rs. 364.65 per tonne. The increase between 1992-93 and 1993-94 is therefore estimated at Rs. 30.34 per tonne.

(d) Coal Companies are required to be compensated for increase in costs of inputs according to the formula prescribed by Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP).

Supply of Coal to Koradi Thermal Power Station

1858. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the required amount of coal is not being supplied to the Koradi Thermal Power Station, near Nagpur in Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) how much coal is required by this Power Station annually and how much is being supplied ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to see that proper supply of coal to this power station is maintained ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Adequate quantity of coal has been supplied to Koradi Thermal Power Station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

The annual coal requirements of Koradi Thermal Power Station, as assessed by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) vis-a-vis actual supplies during the last two years as furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL) are given below :

(Fig. in '000 tonnes)
(Data Provisional)

Year	Assessed requirement	Actual despatch	%age materialisation
1992-93	3,953	4,751	120%
1993-94 (April, 93 to Jan, 94)	4,204	4,832	115%

(d) Supplies of coal to all power utilities including Koradi Thermal Power Station are closely monitored and coordinated with all concerned agencies including coal companies, Central Electricity Authority and Railways.

Complaint regarding supply of bad quality of coal to MSEB

1859. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra State Electricity Board has complained about the bad quality of coal being supplied to the Thermal Power Stations in the State ;

(b) if so, the number and details of such complaints received during the year 1993-94 ;

(c) what action has been taken on these complaints ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to see that the MSEB are supplied with good quality coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complaints are being sent by MSEB several authorities including Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Central Electricity Authority, Coal Controller, Coal India Limited (CIL), Western Coalfields Ltd., etc. The information regarding total number of such complaints is not available. These complaints mainly relate to presence of extraneous materials in coal as also over-sized, sticky and muddy coal.

(c) and (d) The complaints are examined on merits of each case. Wherever grade slippages are established, the State Electricity Board is charged only for the lower grade.

In the process of mining of coal especially in opencast mines, some stones/shales/extraneous materials may get mixed up with coal. Following steps are being taken by coal companies to improve the quality of coal sent to consumers including Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

(i) An Action Plan for installation of Feeder Breakers and Coal Handling Plants is being implemented to ensure quality of coal.

(ii) Stones are being segregated at the time of loading of coal.

(iii) Slow moving picking belts are being provided in Coal Handling Plants for manual picking of shale and stone pieces.

(iv) Better supervision is being ensured at the time of loading to maintain the quality of coal and to develop quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged at railway sidings.

(v) Appropriate steps have been and are being taken to ensure quality and quantity at pit-head or rail/road siding (at loading point) to avoid any subsequent complaints resulting in disputes between buyers and sellers.

(vi) Consumers, including MSEB, can post their representatives at loading points to ensure quality of coal.

Recovery of arrears from MSEB

1860. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount of arrears on account of coal supplied to Maharashtra State Electricity Board as on 1st February, 1994 ;

(b) what is being done to recover these arrears ;

(c) what mechanism is being worked out to see that arrears do not accrue beyond a certain limit ; and

(d) whether any interest is being charged on these arrears, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR (PANJA) : (a) to (c) As on 31st January. 1994 the total outstanding dues payable to Coal India Limited (CIL) by Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) for coal supplied were Rs. 423.44 crores (provisional), out of which Rs. 181.16 crores were disputed. The disputed amounts mainly relate to shortages and quality problems.

Following steps are being taken by CIL/Government to contain and recover outstanding dues from power utilities :

(i) Government of India have already decided to adjust all undisputed coal sales outstanding as on 31-5-1990 against the Central Assistance to State Plans, payable to concerned State Governments.

(ii) Ministry of Coal has advised CIL to start supplying coal to power houses only against advance payments.